

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

Eastern District of California

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

JUDGMENT IN A CRIMINAL CASE

V.

Case Number: **2:21CR00007-8****JOAQUIN ALBERTO SOTELO VALDEZ**

Defendant's Attorney: Michael Long, Appointed

THE DEFENDANT:

- ☒ pleaded guilty to count(s) 1, 10 of the Superseding Indictment.
- ☐ pleaded nolo contendere to count(s) , which was accepted by the court.
- ☐ was found guilty on count(s) after a plea of not guilty.

The defendant is adjudicated guilty of these offenses:

Title & Section	Nature of Offense	Offense Ended	Count
21 U.S.C. §§ 846, 841(a)(1)	Conspiracy to Distribute and to Possess with Intent to Distribute Fentanyl, Cocaine, and Methamphetamine (Class A Felony)	9/2/2021	1
21 U.S.C. §§ 846, 841(a)(1)	Possession with Intent to Distribute Fentanyl (Class A Felony)	12/5/2020	10

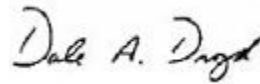
The defendant is sentenced as provided in pages 2 through 7 of this judgment. The sentence is imposed pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984.

- ☐ The defendant has been found not guilty on count(s) .
- ☐ Count(s) dismissed on the motion of the United States.
- ☒ Indictment is to be dismissed by District Court on motion of the United States.
- ☒ Appeal rights given. ☐ Appeal rights waived.

It is ordered that the defendant must notify the United States attorney for this district within 30 days of any change of name, residence, or mailing address until all fines, restitution, costs, and special assessments imposed by this judgment are fully paid. If ordered to pay restitution or fine, the defendant must notify the court and United States attorney of material changes in economic circumstances.

7/7/2025

Date of Imposition of Judgment



Signature of Judicial Officer

Dale A. Drozd, United States District Judge

Name & Title of Judicial Officer

7/14/2025

Date

DEFENDANT: JOAQUIN ALBERTO SOTELO VALDEZ

Page 2 of 7

CASE NUMBER: 2:21CR00007-8

IMPRISONMENT

The defendant is hereby committed to the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a total term of: 120 months on each of Counts 1 and 10, to be served concurrently for a total term of 120 months.

- ☐ No TSR: Defendant shall cooperate in the collection of DNA.
- ☒ The court makes the following recommendations to the Bureau of Prisons:
The court recommends that the defendant be incarcerated either in California or Oregon, to facilitate family visitation, but only insofar as this accords with security classification and space availability. The court recommends the defendant participate in the 500-Hour Bureau of Prisons Substance Abuse Treatment Program.
- ☒ The defendant is remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal.
- ☐ The defendant shall surrender to the United States Marshal for this district
- ☐ at ____ on ____.
- ☐ as notified by the United States Marshal.
- ☐ The defendant shall surrender for service of sentence at the institution designated by the Bureau of Prisons:
- ☐ before ____ on ____.
- ☐ as notified by the United States Marshal.
- ☐ as notified by the Probation or Pretrial Services Officer.
- If no such institution has been designated, to the United States Marshal for this district.
- ☐ Other, Please Specify:

RETURN

I have executed this judgment as follows:

Defendant delivered on _____ to _____
at _____, with a certified copy of this judgment.

United States Marshal

By Deputy United States Marshal

SUPERVISED RELEASE

Upon release from imprisonment, you will be on supervised release for a term of:
60 months on each of Counts 1 and 10, to be served concurrently for a total term of 60 months (unsupervised, if deported).

MANDATORY CONDITIONS

You must not commit another federal, state or local crime.

You must not unlawfully possess a controlled substance.

You must refrain from any unlawful use of controlled substance. You must submit to one drug test within 15 days of release from imprisonment and at least two (2) periodic drug tests thereafter, not to exceed four (4) drug tests per month.

- ☐ The above drug testing condition is suspended, based on the court's determination that you pose a low risk of future substance abuse.
- ☐ You must make restitution in accordance with 18 U.S.C. §§ 3663 and 3663A or any other statute authorizing a sentence of restitution.
- ☒ You must cooperate in the collection of DNA as directed by the probation officer.
- ☐ You must comply with the requirements of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (34 U.S.C. § 20901, *et seq.*) as directed by the probation officer, the Bureau of Prisons, or any state sex offender registration agency in the location where you reside, work, are a student, or were convicted of a qualifying offense.
- ☐ You must participate in an approved program for domestic violence.

You must comply with the standard conditions that have been adopted by this court as well as with any other conditions on the attached page.

DEFENDANT: JOAQUIN ALBERTO SOTELO VALDEZ

Page 4 of 7

CASE NUMBER: 2:21CR00007-8

STANDARD CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

As part of your supervised release, you must comply with the following standard conditions of supervision. These conditions are imposed because they establish the basic expectations for your behavior while on supervision and identify the minimum tools needed by probation officers to keep informed, report to the court about, and bring about improvements in your conduct and condition.

1. You must report to the probation office in the federal judicial district where you are authorized to reside within 72 hours of release from imprisonment, unless the probation officer instructs you to report to a different probation office or within a different time frame.
2. After initially reporting to the probation office, you will receive instructions from the court or the probation officer about how and when you must report to the probation officer, and you must report to the probation officer as instructed.
3. You must not knowingly leave the federal judicial district where you are authorized to reside without first getting permission from the court or the probation officer.
4. You must answer truthfully the questions asked by the probation officer.
5. You must live at a place approved by the probation officer. If you plan to change where you live or anything about your living arrangements (such as the people you live with), you must notify the probation officer at least 10 days before the change. If notifying the probation officer in advance is not possible due to unanticipated circumstances, you must notify the probation officer within 72 hours of becoming aware of a change or expected change.
6. You must allow the probation officer to visit you at any time at your home or elsewhere, and you must permit the probation officer to take any items prohibited by the conditions of your supervision that he or she observes in plain view.
7. You must work full time (at least 30 hours per week) at a lawful type of employment, unless the probation officer excuses you from doing so. If you do not have full-time employment, you must try to find full-time employment, unless the probation officer excuses you from doing so. If you plan to change where you work or anything about your work (such as your position or your job responsibilities), you must notify the probation officer at least 10 days before the change. If notifying the probation officer at least 10 days in advance is not possible due to unanticipated circumstances, you must notify the probation officer within 72 hours of becoming aware of a change or expected change.
8. You must not communicate or interact with someone you know is engaged in criminal activity. If you know someone has been convicted of a felony, you must not knowingly communicate or interact with that person without first getting the permission of the probation officer.
9. If you are arrested or questioned by a law enforcement officer, you must notify the probation officer within 72 hours.
10. You must not own, possess, or have access to a firearm, ammunition, destructive device, or dangerous weapon (i.e., anything that was designed, or was modified for, the specific purpose of causing bodily injury or death to another person, such as nunchakus or tasers).
11. You must not act or make any agreement with a law enforcement agency to act as a confidential human source or informant without first getting the permission of the court.
12. If the probation officer determines that you pose a risk to another person (including an organization), the probation officer may require you to notify the person about the risk and you must comply with that instruction. The probation officer may contact the person and confirm that you have notified the person about the risk.
13. You must follow the instructions of the probation officer related to the conditions of supervision.

U.S. Probation Office Use Only

A U.S. probation officer has instructed me on the conditions specified by the court and has provided me with a written copy of this judgment containing these conditions. For further information regarding these conditions, see *Overview of Probation and Supervised Release Conditions*, available at: www.uscourts.gov.

Defendant's Signature _____

Date _____

DEFENDANT: JOAQUIN ALBERTO SOTELO VALDEZ

Page 5 of 7

CASE NUMBER: 2:21CR00007-8

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

1. You must submit your person, property, house, residence, vehicle, papers, computer, other electronic communications or data storage devices or media, or office, to a search conducted by a United States probation officer or any law enforcement officer at any time, based upon reasonable suspicion of unlawful conduct or a violation of a condition of supervision, without a search warrant. Failure to submit to a search may be grounds for revocation. You must warn any other occupants that the premises may be subject to searches pursuant to this condition.
2. You must submit to substance abuse/alcohol abuse testing to determine if you have used a prohibited substance. You must not attempt to obstruct or tamper with the testing methods.
3. You must provide the probation officer with access to any requested financial information and authorize the release of any financial information. The probation office may share financial information with the U.S. Attorney's Office.
4. If you are deported, excluded or allowed to voluntarily return to your country of origin, you must remain outside the United States, unless legally authorized to re-enter. If you re-enter the United States, you must report to the nearest probation office within 72 hours after you return; supervision is waived upon deportation, exclusion, or voluntary departure.
5. You must possess and use only those cellular phones and phone numbers (including Voice over Internet Protocol [VoIP] services) that have been disclosed to the probation officer upon commencement of supervision. Any changes or additions are to be disclosed to the probation officer prior to the first use.
6. You must participate in a co-payment plan for treatment, testing and/or medication and shall make payment directly to the vendor under contract with the United States Probation Office. Your co-payment will be determined utilizing a Sliding Fee Scale based upon your disposable income.

DEFENDANT: JOAQUIN ALBERTO SOTELO VALDEZ

Page 6 of 7

CASE NUMBER: 2:21CR00007-8

CRIMINAL MONETARY PENALTIES

The defendant must pay the total criminal monetary penalties under the Schedule of Payments on Sheet 6.

TOTALS

<u>Processing Fee</u>	<u>Assessment</u>	<u>AVAA Assessment*</u>	<u>JVTA Assessment**</u>	<u>Fine</u>	<u>Restitution</u>
	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00

☐ The determination of restitution is deferred until ____ . An *Amended Judgment in a Criminal Case (AO 245C)* will be entered after such determination.

☐

If the defendant makes a partial payment, each payee shall receive an approximately proportioned payment, unless specified otherwise in the priority order or percentage payment column below. However, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3664(i), all nonfederal victims must be paid before the United States is paid.

☐ Restitution amount ordered pursuant to plea agreement \$ ____

☐ The defendant must pay interest on restitution and a fine of more than \$2,500, unless the restitution or fine is paid in full before the fifteenth day after the date of the judgment, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(f). All of the payment options on Sheet 6 may be subject to penalties for delinquency and default, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(g).

☐ The court determined that the defendant does not have the ability to pay interest and it is ordered that:

☐ The interest requirement is waived for the ☐ fine ☐ restitution

☐ The interest requirement for the ☐ fine ☐ restitution is modified as follows:

☐ If incarcerated, payment of any unpaid criminal monetary penalties in this case is due during imprisonment at the rate of 10% of the defendant's gross income per month or \$25 per quarter, whichever is greater. Payment shall be made through the Bureau of Prisons Inmate Financial Responsibility Program.

☐ Other:

* Amy, Vicky, and Andy Child Pornography Victim Assistance Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-299

** Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-22.

*** Findings for the total amount of losses are required under Chapters 109A, 110, 110A, and 113A of Title 18 for offenses committed on or after September 13, 1994, but before April 23, 1996.

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Having assessed the defendant's ability to pay, payment of the total criminal monetary penalties is due as follows:

- A. ☐ Lump sum payment of \$ ____ due immediately, balance due
☐ Not later than ____, or
☐ in accordance ☐ C, ☐ D, ☐ E, or ☐ F below; or
- B. ☒ Payment to begin immediately (may be combined with ☐ C, ☐ D, or ☒ F below); or
- C. ☐ Payment in equal ____ (*e.g. weekly, monthly, quarterly*) installments of \$ ____ over a period of ____ (*e.g. months or years*), to commence ____ (*e.g. 30 or 60 days*) after the date of this judgment; or
- D. ☐ Payment in equal ____ (*e.g. weekly, monthly, quarterly*) installments of \$ ____ over a period of ____ (*e.g. months or years*), to commence ____ (*e.g. 30 or 60 days*) after release from imprisonment to a term of supervision; or
- E. ☐ Payment during the term of supervised release/probation will commence within ____ (*e.g. 30 or 60 days*) after release from imprisonment. The court will set the payment plan based on an assessment of the defendant's ability to pay at that time; or
- F. ☒ Special instructions regarding the payment of criminal monetary penalties:
☒ **Payments must be made by Check or Money Order, payable to: Clerk, U.S.D.C. and mailed to:**
☒ CLERK U.S.D.C.
501 "I" Street, #4-200
Sacramento, CA 95814
Your check or money order must indicate **your name and citation/case number** shown above to ensure your account is credited for payment received.

If incarcerated, payment of any unpaid criminal monetary penalties in this case is due during imprisonment at the rate of 10% of the defendant's gross income per month or \$25 per quarter, whichever is greater. Payment shall be made through the Bureau of Prisons Inmate Financial Responsibility Program.

The defendant shall make payments toward any unpaid criminal monetary penalties in this case during supervision at the rate of at least 10% of your gross monthly income. Payments are to commence no later than 60 days from placement on supervision. This payment schedule does not prohibit the United States from collecting through all available means any unpaid criminal monetary penalties at any time, as prescribed by law.

The defendant shall receive credit for all payments previously made toward any criminal monetary penalties imposed.

- ☐ The defendant shall pay the cost of prosecution.
- ☐ The defendant shall pay the following court cost(s):
- ☐ The defendant shall forfeit the defendant's interest in the following property to the United States: The Preliminary Order of Forfeiture is hereby made final as to this defendant and shall be incorporated into the Judgment.

Payments shall be applied in the following order: (1) assessment, (2) restitution principal, (3) restitution interest, (4) AVAA assessment, (5) fine principal, (6) fine interest, (7) community restitution, (8) JVT A assessment, (9) penalties, and (10) costs, including cost of prosecution and court costs.